(in lakh mandays)

Year	Target	Achievements	%age Achievement
1994-95	1340.30	986.58	74
1995-96	1245.86	1197.03	96

Petrol from Herbs

699. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the latest reports about Shri Pillai's experiment about producing petrol from herbs;

(b) whether the Scientific Community has accepted the claim;

(c) whether the departments of Government have damnified his claim; and

(d) whether the Government has anything to say more about this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) to (d) The Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Enviroment and Forests witnessed a demonstration of "Herbal Fuel" by Shri P. Ramar at the Indian Institute of Petroleum on 15th November, 1996. The Report of the Committee was laid on the Table of the House. From the findings of the scientists conducting the experiment at the Indian Institute of Petroleum, the Committee concluded that the expectations of finding an indigenous and economical solution to the energy crisis has been belied for a while. The Government has nothing more to say about the matter.

System for Recruiting Scientists in CSIR

700. SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND: DR. RANBIR SINGH:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been requested to abolish the existing contractual system of recruiting scientists in the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the justification therefor;

(c) whether Government have taken any action on this request; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (PROF. YOGENDER K. ALAGH): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) to (d) From 1st April, 1988 Govt. of India effected confirmation of employees immediately on completion of probationary period irrespective of availability of post. Scientists in CSIR have been demanding benefit of this decision while requesting scrapping of the contractual recruitment. Governing Body of CSIR took up for consideration this request of Scientific Workers in Jan., 1992 and decided that the system of contract appointments should continue since it bears an element of flexibility which is to the advantage of both, the scientists as well as CSIR and it encourages healthy mobility of scientists within R&D institutions of the country. If contractual appointment were to be

swapped with confirmation on completion of probationary period the mobility of scientists from one R&D organisation to another would be severely impeded due to intricacies of rules governing such permanent appointments. However, when the scientific workers expressed their concern again about contract appointments, CSIR has agreed to place the matter before its Governing Body for reconsideration.

चंडीगढ़ से मौसम केन्द्र को हिमाचल प्रदेश के केन्द्रीय स्थान पर स्थापित किया जाना

701. **श्री महेश्वर सिंह:** क्या विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि चंडीगढ़ स्थित मौसम केन्द्र वर्तमान में हिमाचल प्रदेश, पंजाब और हरियाणा के मौसम संबंधी भविष्यवाणियां करता है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या यह केन्द्र हिमाचल प्रदेश के दुर्गम क्षेत्रों विशेषकर कुल्लू-मंडी, लाहौर-स्पीति और चम्बा-कांगड़ा जिले के लिये सही सूचना नहीं दे पा रहा है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार हिमाचल प्रदेश में किसी केन्द्रीय स्थान पर मौसम केन्द्र स्थापित करने पर विचार करेगी ताकि लोगों को बादल फटने, भूकम्प आदि से होने वाले जान और माल की संभावित हानि के बारे में सचेत किया सके; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो ऐसा केन्द्र कब स्थापित कर दिया जायेगा और यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण है?

योजना और कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री तथा विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (प्रो० योगेन्द्र कु० अलघ): (क) जी, हां।

(ख) जी, नहीं। चंडीगढ़ स्थित मौसम विज्ञान केन्द्र द्वारा जारी किये गये विभिन्न किस्म के मौसम पूर्वानुमानों का इन सभी राज्यों में विभिन्न माध्यमों द्वारा प्रसारण किया जाता है। सत्यापन के पश्चात् ये काफी सही पाये गये है।

(ग) जी, नहीं।

(घ) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Setting up of a High Tech Seismometer Observatory in Himachal Pradesh

702. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that frequent low intensity and high intensity shocks of earthquake are being felt for the last 3-4 months in the inaccessible and border areas of Lahol in Himachal Pradesh, particularly those adjoining Laddakh, which are indicative of the possibility of a high intensity earthquake in future;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to set up high-tech seismometer observatory in these areas of the State; and

(c) if so, by when and, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (PROF. YOGENDER K. ALAGH): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. Recently, earthquakes in the areas of Himachal Pradesh adjoining Ladakh have been felt. There is no scientific basis to conclude that this activity is indicative of the possibility of occurrence of a high magnitude earthquake in the region in future.

IMD is oeprating 7 seismological observatories in Himachal Pradesh. One of them is located at Kalpa, close to Ladakh. Additionally, 8 Seismic monitoring stations are being operated in Kangra region on research mode through the support of Department of Science & Technology. An array of 50 Strong Motion accelerographs has also been set up in the Kangra region.